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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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MOSQUITOES.

AN UNUSUAL BREEDING PLACE.

Acting Assist. Surg. W. J. Stewart, on duty at La Guaira, Venezuela, reports that there had been a much larger number of mosquitoes than usual in the offices of the American consulate and that a careful search of the usual breeding places, including rain gutters, failed to reveal where they were breeding. There was in use in the office a water cooler of the type in which water from a large inverted bottle passes through a porcelain compartment surrounded by an ice chamber. One day in drawing off from the ice chamber some of the water resulting from the melting ice, mosquito larvæ were found in the water and on complete drainage of the ice chamber a considerable number of larvæ were found. The water and larvæ were inadvertently thrown away before the type of mosquitoes which had been breeding in this ice-cold water was determined.

The cleaning of the ice chamber and careful daily attention to it were followed by the total disappearance of mosquitoes from the offices.

THE TRANSMISSIBILITY OF PELLAGRA.

EXPERIMENTAL ATTEMPTS AT TRANSMISSION TO THE HUMAN SUBJECT.[1]

By JOSEPH GOLDBERGER, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

There is a very widely held belief, at least in the United States, that pellagra is a communicable disease. The evidence in support of this is almost wholly indirect and consists, in the main, of certain analogies to infectious diseases presented by some features of its epidemiology. When critically examined one finds that this evidence either completely falls or that it is susceptible of an entirely different interpretation.[2] The only direct evidence in favor of this view that

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[1] Read at the meeting of the Southern Medical Association, Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 16, 1916.

[2] A discussion of the literature is reserved for a later communication. In the meantime the reader will find the following of interest: Goldberger, 1915, Vedder, 1916, and Voegtlin, 1914.